

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01150 010954Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----034727 010958Z /10

P 010900Z JUN 78

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6270

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1150

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PROP, PINT, PEPR, IZ, UR

SUBJ: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ARMED FORCES

REF BAGHDAD 1136

1. SUMMARY: ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER PUBLISHED FRONT
PAGE EDITORIAL JUNE 1 ON SUBJECT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ARMED
FORCES. UNDER SIGNATURE OF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IT MAKES POINTS IN
AL-THAWRA ARTICLE IN MORE DIRECT MANNER AND ADDS SUGGESTION THAT
LEADERSHIP OF IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY WAS TO BLAME. EDITORIAL
AFFIRMS CONTINUATION OF POPULAR AND PROGRESSIVE
NATIONAL FRONT AS WELL AS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION.
END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT

A FEW DAYS AGO AL-THAWRA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED TWO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01150 010954Z

IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN WHICH IT WARNED THE OTHER PARTNERS
IN THE NATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE FRONT NOT TO INDULGE
IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

HOWEVER, WHEN THE FRONT WAS ESTABLISHED IT WAS
MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE
ARMED FORCES WAS RESTRICTED TO THE LEADING PARTY IN
THE FRONT, NAMELY, THE ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY.

OTHER PARTNERS HAD EITHER TO ACCEPT THIS PROVISIO OR
TOTALLY DISOICATE THEMSELVES FROM THE ALLIANCE.

THEY CONSENTED, IN FACT, TO ABIDE BY THIS RULE
WHICH WAS MADE A PUBLIC LAW AS FAR BACK AS NOVEMBER 1971.
IT WAS EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE LAW THAT POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES IN THE ARMED FORCES WAS DENIED TO ALL,
EXCEPT FOR THE BAATH PARTY. ANY VIOLATION OF THE
LAW WAS TO BE CONSIDERED A CRIME THREATENING THE
SECURITY OF THE STATE AND SEVERELY PUNISHABLE BY LAW.

THEREFORE, THE RECENT ACTION TAKEN AGAINST A NUMBER
OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS WAS NOT TAKEN BECAUSE THEY WERE
COMMUNISTS, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THEY, AS COMMUNISTS,
CHOSE TO WORK WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE STATED
LAW OF THE STATE.

LET THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING HERE: THERE IS
SIMPLY NO NEW POLICY TOWARDS THE IRAQI COMMUNISTS,
THE SOVIET UNION, OR THE SOCIALIST CAMP. THE NATIONAL
AND PROGRESSIVE FRONT EXISTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST,
BUT NOT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. THIS SIMPLY WILL NOT
BE TOLERATED.

IN ADDITION, IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT
THERE IS NO WITCH-HUNT AGAINST IRAQI COMMUNISTS. ON
THE CONTRARY, IT IS THEIR LEADERSHIP WHICH MUST BEAR
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INVOLVING A NUMBER OF THEIR
CADRES IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ARMED
FORCES, IN VIOLATION OF THE GOVERNING LAW OF THE COUNTRY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01150 010954Z

IT MUST ALSO BE CLEARLY STATED THAT AS FAR AS THE
IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THERE IS NO INTENTION OF
ADOPTING A NEW POLICY TOWARDS THE FRONT. IF OTHERS
CHOOSE TO SO WISH, THEN IT IS LEFT FOR THEM TO DECIDE
AND THEY MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR DECISION.
THE BAATH WILL ACCEPT NO HALF-MEASURES. THIS, TO THE
BAATH, IS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. MOREOVER, THE
MEASURES TAKEN WERE BY A UNITED LEADERSHIP AND WITH
DETERMINATION.

THIS DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH
POLITICAL EVENTS PERTAINING TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN IRAQ
OR IN THE ARAB AREA. IT IS, SIMPLY, A QUESTION OF
PRINCIPLE: THE BREAKAGE OF LAW AND THE PUNISHMENT
OF LAW.
END TEXT.
PECK

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-0109
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806109/aaaadptq.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01b0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 1136
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2168655
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ARMED FORCES
TAGS: PROP, PINT, PEPR, IZ, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01b0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014